



Global Watch Daily – May 22, 2026

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A concise summary of significant developments in Israel and the world through a grounded Christian worldview.

Israel & Jerusalem

Claims of “settler violence” against Israel have been challenged as fabricated, comparable to unfairly branding Western demonstrations as government-sponsored violence, revealing a pattern of biased narratives. At the same time, tensions rose when Gaza flotilla activists were deported following widespread condemnation of a far-right Israeli minister’s taunts directed at restrained activists, increasing international scrutiny. Additionally, the Hindutva political movement—distinct from Hinduism as an ancient faith—continues to shape regional dynamics and discourse. These developments highlight the complex socio-political challenges within and around Israel ([JNS](#); [BBC News](#); [Al Jazeera](#))

On the geopolitical front, Western misunderstanding of Iran’s regime mindset persists, complicating prospects for peaceful coexistence. Iran’s recent publication of a map asserting armed forces control over a significant portion of the Strait of Hormuz signals increased regional assertiveness. These tensions are further compounded by India’s escalating climate crisis, where government denial and insufficient protections have resulted in rising heat-related deaths, reflecting broader global challenges. Together, these factors shape the regional security and humanitarian landscape ([JNS](#); [BBC News](#); [Al Jazeera](#))

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Security threats continue in Syria, illustrated by a recent car bombing in Damascus and ongoing raids against militants in Deir Ez Zor, even as the government seeks reconciliation with Kurdish groups and pursues international diplomacy. Russia has resumed military cargo shipments to Syria, reinforcing its strategic presence, while the recent Putin-Xi summit in Beijing produced limited breakthroughs despite multiple agreements being signed. These events underscore the complex and evolving security environment in the Middle East, shaped by global powers and regional actors. Meanwhile, debates on energy policy persist, with UK experts advising against new North Sea oil investments amid global market pressures and geopolitical risks ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#); [FDD](#); [Chatham House](#))



Criticism of the AUKUS security partnership remains strong, with former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull condemning it as a costly transfer of wealth to the US and UK without delivering submarines. He advocates for European cooperation on defense platforms, suggesting a missed opportunity in the cancellation of prior agreements with France. These views reflect ongoing debates about alliance strategies and defense procurement amid US-China rivalry and shifting global power balances ([Chatham House](#))

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Social unrest and political tensions are escalating worldwide. In Ireland, protests demand justice following the death of a Congolese-born man restrained by security guards, evoking parallels to George Floyd's killing. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, anger over Ebola-related deaths led to the burning of hospital tents, reflecting deep mistrust and grief. Meanwhile, in the US, former reality TV figure Spencer Pratt employs controversial tactics reminiscent of Trump in the Los Angeles mayoral race, amid a crowded field of candidates. These events illustrate widespread societal challenges and political volatility across continents ([France24](#); [BBC News](#); [France24](#))

Diplomatic negotiations continue in Southeast Asia, with the US and Philippines nearing agreement on an economic security zone despite initial resistance to US jurisdiction. In Malaysia, authorities have warned TikTok over offensive posts targeting the country's king, highlighting concerns about digital content and the defamation of the monarchy. These developments underscore the ongoing complexities of regional geopolitics and information control in a rapidly evolving digital landscape ([The Diplomat](#); [The Diplomat](#))

Pestilence & Global Health

Recent scientific studies reveal that hidden tooth infections can cause chronic inflammation that affects blood sugar regulation, suggesting that dental treatments may improve systemic health beyond oral care. Additionally, breakthroughs in understanding enteroviruses—including polio and the common cold—have revealed a molecular mechanism that controls viral replication, opening new possibilities for targeted antiviral therapies. These findings highlight the interconnectedness of localized infections and broader health outcomes, emphasizing the importance of integrated medical approaches ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#))

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens



Seismic activity continues with a magnitude 5.2 earthquake east of Atka, Alaska, and a smaller 0.7 magnitude event near Cobb, California, both recorded by the USGS. NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has captured detailed images of a galaxy cluster, revealing diverse galactic formations and foreground stars with characteristic diffraction spikes. In Mississippi, a powerful tornado carved a jagged path of destruction, underscoring the ongoing risks posed by severe weather events. Weather forecasts predict wet and cool conditions in the eastern US over Memorial Day weekend, in contrast to unusually warm temperatures in the northern plains. These phenomena reflect the dynamic and sometimes volatile nature of Earth's physical environment ([USGS](#); [NASA](#); [NASA](#); [weather.gov](#))

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Recent archaeological discoveries include the Abu Ghosh 'Abd el-'Aziz Street artifact (A-8975) and surveys at Gan Yavne, shedding light on historical settlements near Jerusalem. Notably, a 50-meter tunnel near Ramat Rahel, likely dating to the Roman period or earlier, was uncovered, alongside a Roman-era statuette fragment found in Makhtesh Ramon. In Egypt, a 2,000-year-old mummy was discovered with a papyrus fragment of the "Iliad" sealed outside its wrappings, illustrating a unique fusion of Homeric epic and Egyptian ritual. These findings enrich our understanding of ancient cultures and their interconnectedness in the region ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [BiblePlaces](#); [BiblePlaces](#))

Reflection

We should interpret these developments soberly, resisting both panic and apathy while attending to what is true. Our aim is prayerful discernment—grounding convictions in Scripture and keeping watch with steadiness and hope.